UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23338
31 December 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached note verbale, dated 30 December 1991, was addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations.

Annex

Note verbale dated 30 December 1991 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

The Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's note of 16 December 1991, in which he solicited information on the measures taken by the Swiss authorities to comply with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 713 (1991) of 25 October 1991. The Permanent Observer is pleased to convey the information requested, as follows:

(1) The federal law on war materiél of 30 June 1972 provides that all such materiél requires the authorization of the Swiss authorities.

(2) Article 11(2) of the said law stipulates that no authorization shall be granted for exports to territories where conflict has broken out or is threatened or where dangerous tensions exist, or where it appears that human rights are not respected.

(3) With respect to Yugoslavia, the above-mentioned provisions of article 11 were already sufficient for any export of military materiél to be disallowed as of October 1990.

(4) Under article 102(8) of the Swiss Federal Constitution, the Swiss authorities have issued an order absolutely forbidding Yugoslav nationals to acquire and bear arms. The order was issued on 18 December 1991 and entered into force immediately. The Swiss authorities thus intend to prevent the belligerents from obtaining, almost at will, part of their firearms from Swiss territory.